

February 1, 2010

FEB 04 2010



Mr. Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Stacey:

Our farm is a Certified Organic farm. Certified by Baystate Organic Certifiers. There are no pesticides, herbicides, or chemicals used in the production of our fruits, berries and vegetables. Therefore, there is no runoff to pollute the stream running through our property. At present, I do not draw water from this stream but in planting a remote field (no water available except this stream and pond) during a time of drought, I will be forced to use water from this source to irrigate that field.

- Having surface water available means more agricultural produce from this farm.
- Agriculture, as defined by CGS 1-1 (q), should absolutely, without question, be added as an exempt activity.
- As far as well water is concerned, this is my unwavering decision:
 1. I paid to have the well drilled on my property.
 2. I paid to have the pump and piping installed.
 3. I own the land below the surface of my property.
 4. I will use my well for my household and will irrigate my crops without state interference of any kind.
- I strongly recommend that you complete the classification of rivers and streams before developing regulations.
- I strongly recommend reconvening the members of the Commissioner's Advisory Group to complete the policy and implementation portion of the regulations process and to redraft the regulations to include the comments heard at the DEP's Public hearing, specifically providing farmers with access to water during drought and low flow periods.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard A. Wingate".

Richard A. Wingate
Studio Farm
5 Sand Hill Road
Voluntown, CT 06384